

lowed by the Emperor himself, so that M. de Stael was awakened by the cries of *Vive, VEm.permir* ! He had just time to dress himself hastily, and fly to meet Napoleon, to whom he delivered a letter, which he had prepared beforehand for the purpose of soliciting an audience. Lauriston, the *aide de cdi)ip* on duty, took the letter, it being his business to receive all the*, letters and petitions which were presented to Napoleon on his way. Before breakfast the Emperor opened the letters which Lauriston had laid on the table; he merely looked at the signatures, and then laid them aside. On opening M. de StaeTs letter he said, " Ah ! ah ! what have we here ? a letter from M. de Stael.! . . . He wishes to see me. . . . What can he want ? . . . Can there be anything in common between me and the refugees of Geneva? " — " Sire," observed Lauriston, "he is a very young man; and, as well as I could judge from the little I saw of him, there is something very prepossessing in his appearance." — " A. very young man, say you? . . . Oh, then I will see him, . . . Kustan, toll him to come in." M. de Stael presented himself to Napoleon with modesty, but without any unbecoming timidity. When he had respectfully saluted the Emperor a conversation ensued between them, which Duroc described to me in nearly the following manner, As M. de Stael advanced towards the Emperor the latter said, " Whence do you come ? " — " From Geneva, Sire." — "Where is your mother?" — "She is either in Vienna or will soon be there," — " At Vienna ! . . . Well, that is where she ought to be ; and I suppose she is happy. . . . She will now have a good opportunity of learning German." — " Sire, how can you imagine my mother is happy when she is absent from her country and her friends? If I were permitted to lay before your Majesty my mother's confidential letter you would see how unhappy she is in her exile." — "Ah, bah! your mother unhappy, indeed ! . . . However, I do not mean to say she is altogether a bad woman. . . . She has talent — perhaps too much ; and hers is an unbridled talent. She was educated amidst, the chaos of the subverted monarchy and the Revolution ; and out; of these events she makes an amalgamation of her own ! All this might become very dangerous.